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News

FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEMBERS

From Our Founder



As I write this note, tears are flowing. The magic of Impact Austin lies in the pride of ownership that each member feels in helping us achieve success. The journey in 2009 brought challenges, but it is the tenacity of our members--YOU--who didn't give up halfway up the mountain--that brought victory to the march as we grew our membership in a down economy by fifteen women. That is the beauty of Impact Austin, and I salute you!

Now, we go into our grant review

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Membership Update

Our Numbers Continue to Climb!

The Membership Development Committee proudly announces that Impact Austin has **525 members for 2010**, with a **record 149 new members** joining! In a year of economic challenges, there were times it seemed impossible to reach our goal of funding five \$100,000 grants in June of 2010. Because our members believe so strongly in our mission, they shared their time, their homes, their friends and Impact Austin stories and made it possible to not only reach our goal but exceed our wildest expectations.

Thank you to every member both new and old for being a part of Impact Austin this year. We are grateful that each of you has joined us and celebrate the ability to fund a \$105,000 grant in each of our Focus Areas--and truly Impact Austin.

process knowing we can extend five 105,000 grants in June. We are sending a bold message to the nonprofit community that we believe in what they are doing, and we want to support their success. I am honored to lead this 'army of women' that is changing the face of philanthropy in Central Texas.

With appreciation and gratitude,
-Rebecca Powers,
Founder and CEO

Mark Your Calendar

Board Interest Meeting

February 9, 2010
7:00pm - 9:00pm
Home of Debbie Johnson
1200 Barton Creek Blvd #7
Austin, TX 78735

[Map](#)

To RSVP, email Debbie at djohnson020@austin.rr.com

Town Hall Meeting

March 11, 2010
11:30am - 1:00pm or
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Congregation Agudas Achim
Social Hall
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731

[Map](#)

Annual Meeting

June 8, 2010
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Congregation Agudas Achim
Dell Jewish Community Campus
7300 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731

[Map](#)

One Member's Story

Impact Through Involvement

We are looking for new board members to help guide Impact Austin into the future. Don't be shy! You need to be interested and engaged in our mission of grassroots philanthropy and willing to work hard on behalf of the organization.

Members interested in serving on our board of directors are invited to attend an informational meeting at board member Debbie Johnson's home.

When: **Tuesday, February 9th, 7:00-9:00pm**

Where: **1200 Barton Creek Blvd #7, 78735**

RSVP to Debbie at djohnson020@austin.rr.com

If you cannot attend this session but have an interest in serving on the board, please contact Debbie at the email above.

Community Partner Spotlight SafePlace Update

Thanks to a generous grant from Impact Austin, SafePlace has been piloting phone counseling as an innovative approach for reaching adult domestic and sexual violence survivors. In its first year of operation, the program has served over 100 people who were not able to participate in more traditional services, due to issues with transportation, childcare, and physical or emotional limitations.

One of those survivors, Lucia, was shot by her partner after an evening celebration with family and friends. She was shot in the abdomen in front of her 3 year old son and was left bleeding in the street. She was rushed to the hospital where she had emergency surgery. Four vital organs had been damaged and her prognosis was poor.

When Lucia began phone counseling, she was barely out of the hospital and Child Protective Services had custody of her son. Phone counseling allowed Lucia to receive support related to her abusive relationship and the trauma of almost being killed while homebound recovering from the surgery. In time, her nightmares lessened and she realized that a life of abuse was not acceptable. With the help of her phone counselor, Lucia grew to acknowledge her strengths. She gained confidence toward accomplishing her goals of learning English and furthering her education. She is now working, lives in her own apartment, and has regained custody of her son. Both are doing well.

by Jill Angelo

"I became a member of Impact Austin because I thought it would be a great way for me to have a direct impact on the community. I could have never imagined the impact it would have on me!

At the time I joined Impact Austin, my husband and I had suffered through several heartbreaking years of infertility and miscarriages. During my first year as a member, I was on the Family focus area committee, and my grant review team was focused on the Adoption Coalition of Texas. That was the first time my husband and I ever seriously talked about adoption. I would come home from meetings, and we would look at the beautiful children the Adoption Coalition featured in its Heart Gallery.

Within months, we had contacted an adoption agency, and in October 2008, we brought home our beautiful little boy!

I am grateful to Impact Austin for opening our eyes to adoption, and I am proud to be a member each year!"

What does your membership mean to you and what would you like others to know about Impact Austin? We'd love to hear your story!

To share your story, please email Anne Webster at awebster@impact-austin.org

Connect with Us



SafePlace counselor providing phone counseling

Phone counseling aims to provide domestic and sexual violence survivors with increased safety, improved functioning, and emotional well-being. Demand for the service remains high. For survivors like Lucia, life-altering growth clearly can occur through 10 sessions by phone at an opportune time in their lives.

Grants Update FAC Process Begins this Week

We received 118 Letters of Inquiry from the local nonprofit community this year. Now, it's time for the Focus Area Committees to begin their review and deliberation of these funding requests. Over 140 members have signed up to participate on the five committees, and we look forward to learning who this year's finalists will be in early May.

We invite you to connect with Impact Austin's social media community. This is a great way to keep in touch with other Impact Austin members and stay up-to-date on our current events. Please join us on:



And don't forget to check out **Rebecca's Blog** at: <http://impactaustinblog.wordpress.com/>

Our Mission

We're a progressive leader in women's philanthropy, bringing new resources to the community and making philanthropy accessible. Through high-impact grant making, we engage, develop and inspire women to effect positive change.

Our Vision

Our vision is that our women are inspirational role models reaching their full giving potential for a better quality of life in our community. We will ensure our long-term sustainability by tapping into the talents of our members and building Impact Austin from the "inside out."

Our Values

Discovery Day Recap This Year's Event Draws Record Crowd!

Over 140 women registered for Discovery Day this year! As a thoughtful, learning organization, we take the opportunity each year to learn about issues affecting our community and ways that we can, either through our personal philanthropy or collectively, make a positive difference where we live, work and gather. Local 'experts' from Central Texas addressed different issues in each of our Focus Areas.

As a special treat, Brett Barnes started the morning off by singing a song he wrote that announced our membership total to the attendees. It was an electric moment when he belted out five-twenty-five at the end of the song--the house went up for grabs! Brett is currently the Director of Development and External Relations with LifeWorks, but he is also a professional singer and spoke to us about the arts and culture community in Austin. Click [HERE](#) to see the video of Brett's original performance.

The session yielded relevant information and our members asked insightful questions. Plan to join us next January at our 2011 Discovery Day!



Rebecca introducing our speakers

Transparency - We are an open book.

Excellence - We are thorough, professional and go above and beyond.

Inclusiveness - We are open to all women.

Democracy - Each member has an equal voice.

Integrity - We are honest and ethical.

Respect - We consider the impact of our words and actions on others.

Accountability - We say what we're going to do and we do it.

Innovation - We are creative, but prudent risk-takers.

Continuous improvement - Through feedback and other input, we are always improving.

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